

Message Text

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S E C R E T USUN 3333

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK/TURKISH DISPUTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL:

BITSIOS/BENNETT CONVERSATION

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AT HIS REQUEST
AT NOON TODAY. BITSIOS HAD WITH HIM DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER STAVROPOULOS AND AMBASSADORS CARAYANNIS AND PAP-
OULIAS. BITSIOS SAID THE PRUPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO
INQUIRE WHERE THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL OF SATURDAY MORNING
STOOD. BITSIOS INDICATED THAT THE GREEKS CLEARLY WANTED
BOTH A RESOLUTION, AND AN AGREEMENT FROM THE TURKS TO
CONTROL THE FUTURE OPERATION OF SISMIC. HE WAS PREPARED TO
"SUSPEND" GREEK APPLICATION TO ICJ ON BASIS AGREED FORMULA.
HE ELABORATED THAT THE FORM OF THE OUTCOME OF THIS DEBATE
IS IMPORTANT TO THE GREEKS; WHEREAS WITH THE TURKS THE TEXT
WAS WHAT MATTERED. HE INSISTED PM CARAMANLIS COULD NOT ACCEPT
A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT, AS FOR THE SECRETARY'S
SATURDAY PROPOSAL, THE GREEK SIDE ACCEPTED THE PROCEDURE AS
OUTLINED SATURDAY. BITSIOS SAID "THIS SORT OF UNDERSTANDING" COULD BE

A FOLLOW-UP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. TO THE
EXTENT THIS ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT, THEN GREEKS
COULD ACCEPT "WATERED-DOWN" LANGUAGE OF LATEST DRAFT
(USUN 3321).

3. AT THIS POINT, I SUGGESTED HIS MONDAY STATEMENT
(USUN 3248) HAD SEEMED TO US A GREEK REJECTION OF

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SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL. WE HAD REGRETTED THAT POSITION

ON PART OF GREEKS. DITSIOS ANSWERED INDIRECTLY BY REFERRING TO THE NECESSITY FOR THE GREEK GOVT TO HAVE A RESOLUTION. HE SAID A PUBLIC APPEAL IN SC (SUCH AS ONE SUGGESTED BY SC PRESIDENT) COULD PROVIDE NO REASSURANCE THAT THE SISMIC WOULD LIMIT ITS ACTIVITIES. THE UNDERSTANDING IN THIS REGARD WOULD HAVE TO BE BETWEEN THE THREE OF US AND KEPT SECRET TO PROTECT TURKEY.

4. BITSIOS REFERRED TO HSI CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 16 WITH ME (USUN 3248), REPEATING THE FOUR POINTS HE CONVEYED THEN. HE STRESSED THERE WAS NO AVENUE FOR THE GREEKS TO FOLLOW TOWARD PEACEFUL BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IF THE SISMIC CONTINUES ITS OPERATIONS. HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE BILATERAL TALKS WITH TURKS, EVEN HERE IN NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF SC RES, BUT THAT WOULD HAVE TO COME AFTER SISMIC CEASED ITS OPERATIONS IN DISPUTED AREAS.

5. WE THEN DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE LATEST WORKING PAPER. BITSIOS' OBSERVATIONS ON THE DRAFT WERE PROMISED FOR LATER TODAY. HE ASSERTED AGAIN THAT IT WAS A "WATERED-DOWN" DRAFT AND THAT THERE WAS A TREND TO GENERALIZE ITS SCOPE, SUCH AS WITH THE USE OF PLURAL WORDS. I DISPUTED THIS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND POINTED OUT SOME PARTS WERE STRONGER FROM GREEK STANDPOINT.

6. AS TO POSSIBLE MEETING WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, BITSIOS REMARKED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET MET (CONTRARY TO FRENCH REPORT EARLIER), BUT SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RESOLUTION WAS OUT OF THE WAY. BITSIOS SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN READY TO MEET SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH CAGLAYANGIL TO PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE FIR NEGOTIATIONS BUT THE SISMIC'S ACTIVITIES HAD HALTED THOS PLANS.

7. FINALLY, BITSIOS REPORTED THAT, WHEN HE SAW SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ABE LAST EVENING, THEY HAD DISCUSSED A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN SC THROUGH WHICH
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GREECE WOULD AGREE TO SUSPEND ITS APPLICATION BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND TURKEY WOULD AGREE TO LIMIT THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIC. BITSIOS SAID HE DID NOT HAVE ATHENS' AUTHORITY FOR A STATEMENT, AND MOVEOVER HE UNDERSTOOD TURKS WOULD HAVE TO KEEP SECRET A COMMITMENT NOT TO SEND OUT THE SISMIC. SUCH COMMITMENT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. IF THE US WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN A POSITIVE

RESPONSE IN PRINCIPLE FROM THE TURKS, THEN THE DETAILS
COULD BE WORKED OUT, HOPEFULLY THROUGH A VISIT TO NEW
YORK BY SECRETARY KISSINGER OR HABIB. BITSIOS MADE CLEAR
THAT, ALTHOUGH GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FULLY INFORMED, HE
WISHED TO CENTRALIZE HIS NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK.

8. I LEFT BITSIOS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT I
WOULD INFORM DEPT AND GET BACK TO HIM LATER.
BENNETT

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